



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2006

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Michigan Democrats Score Victory Against Canadian Trash

Governor, State Senate Democrats Credited for Keeping Spotlight on Issue

LANSING—Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) applauded her Michigan colleagues in the U.S. Senate, Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, who negotiated an agreement yesterday with Ontario officials to stop shipments of municipal solid waste to Michigan over the next four years.

“All of our hard work—at all levels of government—to keep Michigan from being Ontario’s landfill have finally paid off,” said Brater. “This issue has been a drain on our environment and our state’s resources. Allowing us to ban Canadian trash is a big step forward in conserving landfill space for Michigan citizens’ use.”

Stabenow and Levin received a commitment from Ontario’s Minister of the Environment, Laurel Broten, that shipments of Canadian municipal solid waste will be phased out over a four year schedule. The plan has the full support of the City of Toronto and other key regions currently shipping their trash to Michigan. Ontario’s municipalities have also agreed not to renew their existing contracts with Michigan landfills beyond 2010.

“We finally have a clear plan of action to stop the trash from Canada,” Stabenow said. “I want to thank the government of Ontario for coming to the table and working with us on this commitment to end the trash once and for all.”

Every day, approximately 350 trucks carrying municipal solid waste cross the border from Canada. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Canadian trash made up 19 percent of all trash dumped in Michigan landfills last year. The Stabenow-Levin agreement will stop over 2.78 million metric tons of Canadian trash from coming into Michigan over the next four years.

This agreement is a victory for all Michigan Democrats. Governor Jennifer Granholm has repeatedly called upon both the State and U.S. Legislatures to address the issue of trash imports, while Senator Liz Brater has introduced several pieces of legislation meant to remedy the issue at the state level. Stymied by landfill lobbyists and a lack of bipartisan support, Democratic leaders took up the fight against Canadian trash on the national front.

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State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.